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Revised
1 October 1959

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : U. S. Organizations Involved in
Photographic Intelligence

1. This memorandum is for information only. It contains a general background discussion of the various organizations in the U. S. Government involved in photographic intelligence.

2. CIA

a. The Photographic Intelligence Center of CIA performs a centralized service of common concern for the intelligence community with regard to the processing of aerial photography collected by CIA sources. In addition, it performs photo interpretation and produces photographic intelligence reports in response to CIA requirements. It also participates in the production of joint photographic intelligence reports with the U. S. Army and Navy.

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b. CIA/PIC has a T/O of About of these people are classed as photo interpreters.

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c. The Photographic Intelligence Center has the latest processing and precision instrument equipment. This equipment is generally adequate for the present work load although some items of equipment are still to be delivered. The Photographic Intelligence Center has been the leader in

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the intelligence community in developing and/or procuring improved equipment.

d. The Photographic Intelligence Center is in temporary quarters which are not suitable for permanent occupation and which will not be adequate to accommodate any substantial increase in work load.

3. NAVY

a. The Navy photographic intelligence effort is directed by ONI. The effort is devoted to supporting the Navy mission and participating in joint photographic intelligence projects with the Army and CIA. The major Navy organization directly engaged in photo intelligence is the U. S. Naval Photographic Interpretation Center at Suitland, Maryland, which is under the management control of the Bureau of Aeronautics and the technical control of the Office of Naval Intelligence.

b. There are approximately 485 photo interpreters in the U. S. Navy of whom about 100 are actually engaged in work directly related to this specialty. Of these about 50 are employed at the Navy Photographic Interpretation Center. About 8 U. S. Navy Photographic Interpretation Center personnel work at the CIA Photographic Intelligence Center. The total complement of the U. S. Naval Photographic Interpretation Center including laboratory technicians, etc., is approximately 330.

c. The U. S. Naval Photographic Interpretation Center

maintains the latest foreign and domestic equipment for photo interpretation and photogrammetry, as well as equipment for radar target analysis, and terrain model making. Some items of new equipment on order are still to be delivered.

d. The Navy can expand its photographic intelligence effort if the work load expands.

e. Within the major Fleet Commands there are Fleet Intelligence Centers, Fleet Air Intelligence Augmenting Units, and Mobile Intelligence Production Units, together with air squadrons and carriers, all maintaining photo intelligence capabilities as an integral part of their intelligence effort.

4. ARMY

a. Like the Navy, the Army photographic intelligence effort is directed by the Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, but the main work is actually carried out by the Army Photographic Intelligence Center with headquarters at Ft. Holabird, Md. The mission of the Army Photographic Intelligence Center is to support the Army mission and participate in joint photographic intelligence projects with the Navy and CIA.

b. The Army is heavily committed to a close working relationship with CIA. Of approximately 100 Army photo interpreters, between 65 and 70 are working at CIA/PIC and elsewhere in the Washington area. The remainder are working at Ft. Holabird on projects of interest only to the Army.

c. The Army has no separate laboratory or other photo processing organizations but depends heavily on support by the CIA/PIC.

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d. The Army is building a photo intelligence laboratory at the Army Map Service which should be completed in 1960. It will be equipped with the latest processing and photo interpretation equipment and has been designed to complement the capability of CIA/PIC. The Army plans to increase its photo intelligence strength to about 130-150 by the end of fiscal 1960, and if the work load increases substantially, plans to reach 350 to 400 by the end of calendar 1960.

5. AIR FORCE

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6. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

a. The Air Studies Division at the Library of Congress supports various Air Force special studies. About 25 persons in this division do a certain amount of photo interpretation although the organization has no laboratory and no plans for further expansion.

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7. In addition to the exploitation of aerial photography for intelligence purposes, the military services and CIA all use aerial photography to a certain extent in normal mapping and other geographic activities. Most of the people so engaged have some skill at photo interpretation which could be used in an emergency.

ROBERT AMORY, JR.
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